

Q: Your declassification of the reports on energy appear to be part of a new policy of using intelligence to support policy decisions. Is that the case?

A. That is definitely not the case. This study was started over a year ago, before even the election. The President did not know of it until a few days before he mentioned it in a press conference. Let me say, though, that I believe that the Intelligence Community should make more information available to the public on an unclassified basis. The public is paying for our work and deserves to benefit from it within the necessary limits of secrecy. Moreover, a well informed public is the greatest strength of our nation. I also believe that declassifying as much information as possible is a good way to provide better protection for those secrets we must hold. Excessive classification simply breeds disrespect for and abuse of all classified data. I intend to continue to declassify and publish information of value and interest to our people.

- Q. What about Ethiopia? Are the Russians establishing another toehold in Africa at the expense of the U.S.?
- A. There is no doubt that Soviet ties with Ethiopia's present Leftist regime are close. At the same time, however, the apparent Soviet gains in Ethiopia may lead to a deterioration in its formerly close relations with Somalia.
- Q. Is this a serious setback for the U.S.?
- A. The policy followed by the present Ethiopian government since it came to power in 1974 has been increasingly Leftist and anti-Western, as well as being in violation of the most basic human rights within Ethiopia. While we regret to see a loosening in our long-standing ties with the Ethiopian people, it is unlikely -- given the present regime in Addis Ababa -- that the U.S. could have prevented this cooling in relations. We can hope for an eventual restoration of friendly links to Ethiopia.

Q. What truth is there to the report that the Russians have made a breakthrough in developing a beam that could destroy all of our missiles?

A. The question of Soviet development of a charged particle beam weapon has been the subject of intensive analysis for a number of years. All the results of these studies have been made available to high-level U.S. Government officials on a continuing basis. The Central Intelligence Agency does not believe the Soviet Union has achieved a breakthrough which could lead to a charged particle beam weapon capable of neutralizing ballistic missiles. This question is obviously of concern to the U.S. Government and is continually under review by all members of the Intelligence Community.

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BY DCI AT JOE
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FOR THE LAST Q + A
AS IT NOW APPEARS